

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5269

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN MEDIA REACTION TO AMBASSADOR
GREEN'S SPEECH TO ASIA SOCIETY

1. SUMMARY AMBASSADOR GREEN'S MARCH 11 SPEECH
TO ASIA SOCIETY IN NEW YORK HAS BEEN VERY EXTENSIVELY
COVERED IN AUSTRALIAN MEDIA AND HAS BEEN FRONT-PAGE
ITEM IN SEVERAL PAPERS. AUSTRALIAN MARCH 13 CARRIES
LONG EDITORIAL NOTING SPEECH IS CONSIDERABLE FILLIP
FOR LABOR GOVERNMENT AND SOMEWHAT OF A BLOW TO LIBERAL
PARTY. ACTION REQUESTED: THATT DEPT CABLE TEXT OF
SPEECH, AS HAVE HAD NUMEROUS REQUESTS FOR IT. END
SUMMARY

2. AMBASSADOR GREEN'S SPEECH TO ASIA SOCIETY AND
PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 11 RECEIVED WIDESPREAD PRESS
AND RADIO COVERAGE IN AUSTRALIA. THE AUSTRALIAN
HAS EDIT TITLED "DO IT YOUR WAY, SAYS THE U.S."
AUSTRALIAN EDIT SAYS THERE WILL BE GASPS FROM LABOR
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LEFT AND LIBERAL RIGHT AT FULSOME YET MEASURED ACCOLADE

OF AMBASSADOR TO GOA. SAYS AMBASSADOR HAS EFFECTIVELY SPIKED THE GUNS OF BOTH EXTREMES AND IN SO DOING HAS GIVEN WHITLAM GOVERNMENT THE GREATEST FOREIGN POLICY FILLIP OF ITS CAREER. EDIT SAYS AMBASSADOR IS TOO SEASONED A DIPLOMAT TO ENGAGE IN PARTISAN POLITICS AND HIS CONCERN IS NOT WITH NEXT ELECTION BUT WITH THE MATURATION OF AUSTRALIAN NATIONALISM, A PROCESS IN WHICH U.S.- AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS AFTER A BITTER START TWO YEARS AGO ARE DEVELOPING IN PARALLEL.

3. EDIT NOTES THAT AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON GOA POLICY TOWARD JAPAN, INDONESIA AND SEA POINT TO INTERDEPENDENCE AMONG MANY NATIONS RATHER THAN UMBILICAL DEPENDENCE ON ONE GREAT ALLY. EDITORIAL CONTINUES, NOTING THAT, DOMESTICALLY SPEAKING, THIS IS A BLOW TO OPPOSITION AND TO SHADOW FONMIN PEACOCK, CONSIDERING AMBASSADOR'S OPINION THAT HAROLD HOLT'S QTE ALL THE WAY WITH LBJ UNQTE WAS AN EMBARRASSMENT TO HIS OWN AND EVERY SUBSEQUENT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND AMBASSADOR'S VIEW THAT WASHINGTON'S RELATIONSHIP WITH LABOR GOVERNMENT IS QTE NOT AS CLOSE BUT IN MANY WAYS HEALTHIER UNQTE.

4. EDIT ENDS QTE THERE ARE SHREWD UNDERTONES IN MR. GREEN'S SPEECH TO AN INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE, ONE OF WHICH IS THAT HE IS TAKING IMPLIED CREDIT FOR FIXING UP THE RATHER NASTY 1973 SITUATION. ALSO, BY PRAISING AUSTRALIA NOW, HE IS INVITING THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GOVERNMENTS TO LIVE UP TO THAT PRAISE. FINALLY, HE IS HOLDING AUSTRALIA UP TO MORE FRACTIOUS NATIONS AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW A GOOD, COOPERATIVE AMERICAN ALLY SHOULD ACT UNDER THE NIXON DOCTRINE.

BUT THESE ARE THE NATURAL SUBLETIES OF DIPLOMACY. ON BALANCE, ALL AUSTRALIANS CAN TAKE SATISFACTION FROM THE FACT THAT WE ARE BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS A MATURE AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE. END QTE

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW STORY BY MAURICE ADAMS FROM NY SAYS AMBASSADOR EXPECTS AUSTRALIAN ELECTION IN NEXT FEW MONTHS AND AFTER THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON OMEGA WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESUME. ON OMEGA, ADAMS SAYS QTE IN EFFECT, U.S. WILL NOT PRESS THE ISSUE IF IT MET WITH CONTINUED RESISTANCE FROM GOA. UNQTE AND ADDS THAT WEHETHER OR NOT OMEGA IS SET UP QTE WON'T AFFECT OUR RELATIONSHIP UNQTE. ADAMS SAYS AMBASSADOR FEELS ANZUS IS FUNDAMENTAL TO US-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONSHIP AND AS THERE ARE JOINT FACILITIES AND JOINT SECURITY INTERESTS, AMBASSADOR DOES NOT SEE ANY CHANGE IN THIS FUNDAMENTAL RELATION-

SHIP. MOREOVER, AS ITS OWN DEFENSE SPENDING DECLINES, AMBASSADOR BELIEVES AUSTRALIA QTE CAN SEE ALL THE MORE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. UNQTE

6. AUSTRALIAN FRONT PAGE (TWO COLUMN) HEAD QTE RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. IS HEALTHIEST FOR YEARS - GREEN UNQTE, WITH ARTICLE BY JOHN RAEDLER, NEW YORK, SAYS AMBASSADOR SEES QTE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS BEING IN MANY WAYS HEALTHIER UNDER WHITLAM GOVERNMENT THAN THEY WERE UNDER PREVIOUS AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS. UNQTE AUSTRALIAN PIECE REVIEWS AMBASSADOR'S POINTS ON RELATIONSHIP OF PAST TWO YEARS AND QUOTES HIM: QTE NOW ALL THE PARTIES, LABOR, LIBERAL AND CP ARE IN FAVOR OF A NATIONALISTIC POLICY FOR AUSTRALIA - WE UNDERSTAND THAT AND AGREE WITH IT. UNQTE AMBASSADOR SAID BOTH COUNTRIES SHARE BLAME FOR STRAINS AND THAT FAILURE TO CONSULT WAS MOSTLY IN WASHINGTON. BALANCE OF COVERAGE ON MINERAL POLICY AND MILITARY RELATIONSHIP, IN BOTH OF WHICH A VERY POSITIVE PICUTRE EMERGES.

7. MASS CIRCULATION MELBOURNE HEARALD FRONT PAGES PICTURE OF AMBASSADOR GREEN AND REFERS TO PAGE THREE ITEM BY PETER COSTIGAN HEADED QTE NOW WE'RE FRIENDS AGAIN - U.S. AMBASSADOR. UNQTE.

COSTIGAN DESCRIBES AMBASSADOR'S SPEECHES QTE THE FIRST IN A SERIES UNPRECEDENTED FOR AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, IN WHICH HE PLANS TO 'EXPLAIN' AUSTRALIA TO GROUPS OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPERTS AND STUDENTS ACROSS THE U.S. UNQTE

COSTIGAN SAYS THIS FIRST SPEECH QTE EXPLAINED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNUSUALLY BLUNT TERMS THE REASONS WHY WASHINGTON 'GOT OFF TO A LESS THAN AUSPICIOUS START WITH THE NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER 1972. UNQTE

8. MELBOURNE AGE AND SYDNEY TELEGRAPH ALSO CARRIED APP STORIES.

9. USIS IS PUTTING OUT WIRELESS FILE EXCERPT RECEIVED THIS DATE.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT CABLE TEXT OF SPEECH AS NUMEROUS REQUESTS FOR IT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

11. COMMENT: PUBLIC REACTION HAS BEEN WARM AND

POSITIVE.PRESS HAS TENDED TO EMPHASIZE ONLY THE
AFFIRMATIVE SIDE OF AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ABOUT THE
PRESENT STATE OF US-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS, LEAVING AN
ALMOST EUPHORIC IMPRESSION IN SOME ARTICLES. WE
HAVE HEARD NO DIRECT COMMENT FROM OPPOSITION.
HARROP

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